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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

10-26-2020

The Guardian, Week of October 20, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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Weekly Horoscopes

Star Signer

October 26, 2020

As we near the end of October, you are no doubt wondering what you will dress up as for Halloween. Look no further for some costume suggestions this Halloween based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

One of the Power Rangers, Lady Gaga

TAURUS

Persephone, a wizard, Hermione Granger

GEMINI

A zombie, a princess, Captain Jack Sparrow

CANCER

Alice (from Alice in Wonderland), Little Red Riding Hood, a mummy

LEO

A ghost, a flapper from the 1920's, Rosa Parks

VIRGO

Cruella de vil, a watermelon, a lumberjack

LIBRA

A superhero, a Mario Brothers character, Dracula

SCORPIO

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A zombie bride, Yoda, a clown

SAGITTARIUS

An action hero from your favorite movie, a prison breakout

CAPRICORN

Olaf, a bunny, the Joker

AQUARIUS

Regina George from “Mean Girls,” Scooby, a pirate

PISCES

A skeleton, a troll, a bunch of grapes

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Update: Two Sexual Assaults Reported On Campus Within Last 48 Hours

Alexis Wisler

October 26, 2020

The crimes for the first case, according to a police report from Oct. 18, are rape by force, abduction and unlawful restraint. The crime for the second case, according to a police report from Oct. 20, is rape by force.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, Wright State University (WSU) released an Informational Safety Bulletin from the WSU police stating that two reports of sexual assault have occurred on campus in the last 48 hours.

Update: WSU police chief David Finnie spoke out about the reports and the state of the investigation.

“Wright State police is actively involved in the investigation and cannot release any details during the investigation. However, Wright State police does plan to offer the campus community educational information on how to stay safe using dating websites in the future,” said Finnie.

The reports

According to the Informational Safety Bulletin, which was released to students via email, both of these reports relate back to the dating app Tinder. There is a current investigation for the first report and the suspect for the second report is under the supervision of law enforcement.

“The first incident, the individuals were familiar with each other and the investigation is currently on-going. The second incident, the suspect is in custody. Neither incident is in relation to the other except the use of the Tinder dating application,” said the Informational Safety Bulletin.

Reminders

The Informational Safety Bulletin gives reminders to inform students what is considered sexual assault.

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“It is a violation of university policy to engage in sexual activities without affirmative consent from your partner. Someone incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs cannot consent to sexual activity,” said the Informational Safety Bulletin.

The Informational Safety Bulletin also reminds the WSU community that any student or employee who commits sexual assault can be punished by expulsion or termination.

Safety Tips

Also included in the Informational Safety Bulletin are safety tips to help students protect themselves from sexual assault. Tips included are trust your instincts, create a distraction, make sure everyone has a safe way home and to use caution when using dating apps.

The Informational Safety Bulletin also encouraged students to call the WSU police at (937) 775-2111 and get medical attention if they have been sexually assaulted.

“We strongly encourage victims to seek medical attention immediately, even if there are no obvious physical injuries. Receiving a sexual assault examination is free and conducted by a specially trained nurse,” said the Informational Safety Bulletin.

This is a developing story.

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Board of Trustees Discuss WSU Depleting Reserves

Nicolas BenVenuto

October 26, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) Board of Trustees met virtually at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 to discuss monthly financial reports, investment reports and to approve expenditure contracts.

Director of University Fiscal Services Sommer Todd, and Director of Treasury Services Steven Sherbet, began the meeting by providing Trustees with finance reports, monthly cash flow reports and the committee reviewed year-to-date financial performances.

Depleting Reserves

While highlighting WSU monthly cash flow and investment balances, Sherbet pointed out that WSU is expecting to end the fiscal year 2021 with a reserve balance lower than that of previous fiscal years 2019 and 2020. This downward sloping trend was shown on a bar graph to Trustees, showing reserves of \$113 million in August and sloping down to \$66 million by June.

"We are projecting an ending balance of \$66 million in reserves for fiscal year 21," said Sherbet. "This is of course lower than that of fiscal year 20 where we ended at \$84, and of fiscal year 19 where we ended at \$72 million."

Reserves are expected to be depleted quickly over the next six months, and the trend of depleting reserves continues into July, however, Sherbet did not have an exact estimate of July's balance on hand.

"It will dip down once again in July, before starting to go back up in August once tuition receipts for the following year come in," Sherbet said. "Somewhere in the high \$50 million to low \$60 million range, I would predict."

Upon finishing the cash flow presentation, Sherbet began to discuss WSU investment balances.

Fund reallocation

"One thing I'd like to point out is that we are in a low-interest-rate environment, which means we aren't getting much yield," Sherbet said. "Because of this, last month in September we reallocated the daily income trust governmental portfolio of \$7.4 million into two short-term bond funds, which are picking up a few more basis points."



This reallocation of funds is an attempt by the university to make as much interest income as possible while remaining in a low-interest environment.

Contract approval

WSU Chief Operating Officer Greg Sample began discussed the approval of contracts in two different sections. First, contracts of \$250,000 to \$499,999 and second contracts of \$150,000 to \$249,999.

There was only one contract that needed to be taken to a vote.

This vote was for the spending of a \$451,000 insurance refund check given to the university to repair roof damage and passed unanimously. This insurance money comes in the wake of storm damage to the Student Union pool roof in Dec. 2018, where WSU paid for initial repairs with a portion of the \$3.75 million that was given in capital funding.

After the unanimous vote, Trustees exited the public session and moved to a private meeting for an executive session.

Executive sessions involve matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, regulations, or state statutes, personal matters including compensation and employment and lastly pending or imminent court action.

The committee was briefed that three items needed to be discussed in the executive session, and the public session was ended.

The next WSU Board of Trustees meeting is set to begin virtually at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

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Amy Coney Barrett and Student Concerns Over Policy
Jackson Cornwell
October 26, 2020

On Sept. 26, President Trump announced he would be nominating Justice Amy Coney Barrett to fill Ginsburg's seat. Barrett currently sits on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and was a pupil of the late Justice Anton Scalia.

Following the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Sept. 8, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced the Senate and president would move swiftly to ensure that Justice Ginsburg's seat would be filled before the election.

Concerns over policy

Justice Barrett's past rulings and opinions have caused concern among liberal lawmakers.

Nearly 200 of Barrett's colleagues from the University of Notre Dame have called for Barrett to withdraw her name from consideration with concerns over her policy stances, primarily on climate change. One of the authors of a letter to Barrett said "to say she doesn't have an opinion [on climate change] is appalling...There is uniform scientific consensus."

In 2006, Justice Barrett signed a statement calling the landmark case *Roe v. Wade* "barbaric" in the South Bend Tribune, stating that Roe is "an exercise of raw judicial power" and mourned the "more than 47 million children dead and counting" from abortions.

"It's time to put an end to the barbaric legacy of *Roe v. Wade* and restore laws that protect the lives of unborn children," the statement ended. The full-page ad was paid for by the St. Joseph County Right to Life, an anti-abortion group.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) defended Justice Barrett's originalist views saying "to all the people out there wondering about Judge Barrett I can tell you this: The law of Amy will not be applied to the case and controversy. It will be the law as written in the Constitution or by statute or whatever regulatory body she is going to review. She will take her job without an agenda."

2016 Precedent

In 2016 Justice Antonin Scalia passed away on Feb. 13 of that year. President Obama set to nominate Merrick Garland as Scalia's replacement but McConnell refused to bring the subject to a vote on the Senate floor.

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“Action on a supreme court nomination must be put off until after the election campaign is over” and of the American voters, “let’s give them a voice. Let’s let the American people decide,” said McConnell.

On Wednesday, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) said “there is no precedent — none — for confirming a Supreme Court justice this late in a presidential election year, with more than 40 million ballots already cast.”

Ginsburg’s dying wish

Upon her death bed, Ginsburg said “my most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed,” to her family and loved ones.

News of Ginsburg’s passing broke in the early evening of Sept. 8, and McConnell announced his plan to replace her at 8:55 p.m. that same day via a tweeted statement.

Barrett confirmed by Judicial Committee

On Thursday, Oct. 22, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to move the vote on Justice Barrett out of committee and on to the Senate floor. The vote was 12-0, with no Democratic Senators present for the vote.

McConnell stated that the Senate will vote on Monday Oct. 26 to confirm Justice Barrett. The vote requires a simple majority, which the Republicans currently hold with a 53-47 majority.

Democrat’s concern

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) held a press conference Thursday afternoon and said that he is disappointed in Republicans for “conducting the most rushed, the most partisan, and the least legitimate nomination to the Supreme Court in the nation’s history,” and that the Democrats “will not lend a single ounce of legitimacy to this sham vote in the Judiciary Committee,” according to Schumer.

“Last week, Democrats participated in the nomination hearings because we wanted to show what was at stake for America if Amy Coney Barrett is confirmed. We made our case about risks to affordable care, especially the Affordable Care Act, reproductive freedom, the right to vote and equality for all,” said ranking member Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA).

Student Opinions

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“I think it’s a really scary time right now because there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding her ideology and what we do know, doesn’t look good,” said senior political science major Samantha Baxter. “I am terrified more than ever of someone appointed to the highest court of the land for her lifetime that has made it clear that she will not be protecting those disenfranchised by conservative values.”

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Breast Cancer Survivors Share Stories of Their Journey

Nicolas BenVenuto

October 27, 2020

While no breast cancer diagnosis is routine, the women and families affected share an unmatched level of resiliency and mental fortitude.

Divine intervention

Breast cancer occurs in the body due to the uncontrolled division of abnormal cells found in breast tissues. Typically, it forms a tumor that can be felt as a lump or hard spot in the breast, however for some, the disease can go completely undetected.

"I think God nudged me," said breast cancer survivor Jean Carson.

Carson, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009, says that she had no inclination that anything was wrong in her body before speaking to physicians.

"I received notification that I was about to no longer have health insurance, and I thought I might as well get all of the tests done that I could before the insurance ran out. Sure enough, the doctor found something in my mammogram. I think it was God's will that I had that appointment when I did, otherwise I might not be here today," Carson said.

After her initial appointment, Carson was scheduled for a biopsy and an additional mammogram to ensure the existence of cancerous cells.

"I was so nervous going into my second mammogram," Carson said. "I remember sitting in the waiting room and the worst fear of my entire life came over me. I almost walked out of that waiting room. However, common sense kicked in, and I knew I had to face this head-on. I'll never forget how scared I was in that moment though."

A series of appointments and tests led Carson to a single breast removal surgery and subsequent breast implant.

Carson was medicated for a length of five years to combat the overproduction of estrogen in her body after her surgeries, however, she now finds herself 11 years into a cancer-free life once again.

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"It's taught me how precious life truly is," Carson said. "I had wonderful support from my friends and family the entire time and that really helped me fight through it all. Never take anything in this life for granted."

Nerve-wracking, but necessary

Being nervous about mammograms and check-ups can be common for women, as they may feel uncomfortable with their physician and it's not uncommon for some women to have a fear of pain from the mammogram itself.

Nicole Chrosniak, whose mother passed away from breast cancer, says that these check-ups are nothing to be afraid of, and they need to be taken as seriously as the consequences of opting out.

"My mom was 65 when she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. She had an aggressively rare form of cancer, but she did not get her mammograms done regularly," Chrosniak said. "If she had, I think she would have had more time. The bottom line is that if you catch it early, you have a good chance of beating it!"

Chrosniak encourages young women to perform regular self-evaluations and to not be afraid to speak to a physician if need be.

"Ladies don't be afraid to get a check-up, or afraid to speak to your doctor," Chrosniak said. "If you are nervous or afraid, find a new one. It's very important to have a doctor you can trust and be open with."

Wright State right attitude

Wright State University (WSU) Special Events Coordinator Julie Bertsos was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 40, all while raising her three children, who had lost their Grandmother to breast cancer just five years prior.

"It was really scary for the children," Bertsos said. "Them being young, not understanding but knowing that breast cancer had taken away someone that they love was scary for them. We had to be strong and deal with this on many levels."

Even after having to live through a double mastectomy, Bertsos keeps a positive outlook on her future, while keeping her family educated on the traumas that cancer can bring.

"I'm 17 years past my diagnosis and I'm living my best life," Bertsos said. "Education is imperative. I had no prior family history, so without routine exams, my breast cancer would not



have been found until it may have been past the point we could actively attack it. Don't put off exams, and get a baseline as soon as possible."

There is no such thing as routine breast cancer.

For more information on preventive measures, self-examination tips, myths and FAQs visit:

<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>



Spooky Audio Books: Halloween Edition

Ariel Parker

October 27, 2020

Audiobooks can be the perfect thing to listen to if you are still trying to get into the Halloween spirit. Download one of these titles for free from your local library via Libby or Overdrive and be prepared to get scared.

‘The Test’ by Sylvain Neuvel

If you like the TV show, ‘Black Mirror’, then you will love this sci-fi horror novella about a man taking a citizenship test. This audiobook will grip you from the first scene and keep you on the edge of your seat until the very end. Because this is so short, it’s best to go in blind, and it will stick with you long after you finish listening.

‘Nothing’ by Janne Teller

While this is marketed as YA, do not think that it is for the faint of heart. Translated from Danish, this short novel follows a group of seventh-graders when a boy sits in a tree and professes that “nothing in life matters. They must put together various objects that are significant into a “pile of meaning”. Each student chooses something that matters to another and the stakes get higher as each choice becomes more and more unsettling.

‘The Call’ by Peadar O’Guilin

In an alternate plane of existence where Ireland is cut off from the rest of the world, every child is “called” to an alternate dimension to fight for their lives for 3 minutes. The Irish fae, called the Sidhe, seek to destroy Ireland’s people and children have to train their whole lives on the slim chance they might survive that nightmarish world. For fans of ‘The Hunger Games’, this blend of folklore, action and horror will be sure to creep you out.

‘Pet Sematary by Stephen King

There is a good reason why this book is such a beloved classic of the horror genre and what better time to listen to a King book than during Halloween? Even if you have already seen the movie, this book will still pull you in and take you on a disturbing ride as we follow a man who will do anything for his family.



‘Vampire Kisses’ by Ellen Schreiber

Finally, to end this list with a not-so-spooky book, read this silly, tongue-in-cheek vampire romance. Vampires might be out of style now, but this short book from the early 2000s was not afraid to poke fun while also creating an interesting story. If you are a fan of tropey laugh-out-loud ridiculousness, then give this teen vampire romance a try!

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WSU Students Continue To Struggle As Pandemic Pursues

Maxwell Patton

October 27, 2020

Students at Wright State University (WSU) have experienced an overall decline in their mental health due to the coronavirus and online schooling.

A biochemistry student perspective

One student, a senior biochemistry major has found that they do not learn as well with online classes as they do in person.

“When this started, spring was really rough,” the student said. “I was finishing Bio-Chem 2, and the transition online wasn’t planned for. This semester, while smoother, I’m finding myself doing more and more busywork to compensate for lack of learning. Some professors are really trying but the decreasing levels of communication, increased workload and the online format make it difficult to learn and have taken a toll on my mental health.”

This increased workload has students feeling behind with no way to catch up. According to the student, their depression, coupled with stress, has caused their motivation to be at an all-time low.

“I’m supposed to be applying to grad school, but this semester is making me question all of that,” they said.

Most of the student’s household has lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and two members of their household are considered to be at high risk for the coronavirus. This has caused financial strain for the student.

“I’ve been self-isolating since March because if anyone were to get sick, it could bankrupt us,” they said. “Everyone is home 24/7, and it’s been an adjustment as boundaries that normally would be respected if only due to the fact that we all used to have schedules that didn’t overlap, were being crossed.”

A mass communication student perspective

Mass communication major Patrick Schmalstig has been taking online classes during the fall semester. However, Schmalstig finds it difficult since the lockdown started to get out as often as they used to and keep themselves occupied.

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"I had to basically find new ways and new resources to keep me occupied and not let myself slip into anxiety and things like that," said Schmalstig. "One of the reasons I try and stay active and busy with as much as possible is because it's an escape, so to speak. In a way, I'm a workaholic because it keeps my mental health stable when I'm actively doing things."

Because of the pandemic, Schmalstig has had less disposable income.

"I'm only having about \$35 every two weeks or so to spend on groceries, food, and other things, which is not ideal," said Schmalstig. "Because of this financial strap, I've had to deprioritize my classes temporarily and focus more on earning money so that I can get my finances back on track, and as a result of doing that, I've fallen behind in one of my classes. That's created a little bit more stress."

A geography student perspective

Some students, including geography major Josh Engle, have decided to take the semester off due to the pandemic and their experiences last spring with online classes.

"The isolation and loneliness can be brutal some days and this has been a painful break in my education," said Engle. "That has me stressed out. One of the things that have hurt the most is that a lot of the socialization I have been getting came from university activities, and being alone has been hard."

Advice from Counseling & Wellness

Counseling & Wellness Staff Psychologist Dr. Sarah Peters sees students at WSU to be incredibly resilient while facing the pandemic, and she offered advice for students who are dealing with low mental health during this semester.

"One thing that I've definitely seen that this pandemic has reiterated is that we have some of the most innovative and creative and just inventive students," said Peters. "One thing to know is that there are going to be good days and there's going to be bad days and that the bad days are going to pass. It can be really hard when we're in it and in the middle of the semester, in the middle of the pandemic, to know that there's going to be something different on the other side."

Peters recommends for students to reach out, use their resources and keep in mind that the current conditions are going to change.

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“The pandemic will not last forever,” said Peters. “Even the worst semester is only 15 weeks long. Whether it’s reaching out to faculty or staff or other supports on campus, we’re all figuring out a way to get through this.”

Counseling & Wellness can be reached by phone at 937-775-3407 and are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They also offer limited in-person services at their office in the 053 Student Union.

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Update: Wright State Teamsters Continue Contract Negotiations

Nicolas BenVenuto

October 27, 2020

Update on Oct. 27:

Wright State University's (WSU) Teamsters 957 have proposed new contract language to university officials in regard to ongoing collective bargaining between the Teamsters union and the university.

Detailed in the proposal are three main items in which the Teamsters have proposed new language for WSU to either accept or reject. Items in question include furlough days, subcontracting and wages.

Furloughs

Teamsters 957 are proposing three furlough days per year, but no more than one furlough day per semester.

Throughout the course of negotiations, WSU has maintained a strong stance of 10 furlough days per year, with no more than 5 used per pay period.

Subcontracting

Teamsters 957 are proposing that WSU must maintain a minimum of 35 bargaining unit employees in the list of positions with no reduction in pay, and these employees must maintain lead positions.

This rebuttal comes in the wake of WSU's attempt to rid current contracts of language that would allow them to contract out custodial and floor care positions currently held by Teamsters.

Wages

Teamsters 957 previously proposed that wages would not change for the remaining life of the current contract, which extends to Aug. 31, 2022.

In their latest proposal however, Teamsters are seeking a 1.5% increase in pay effective July 1, 2022, and a 3% increase in pay effective July 1, 2023.



Terms agreed upon

Having previously met with WSU officials on Oct. 19, Teamsters 957 have come to an agreement with the university on three items of discussion which include, overtime, vacations and medical. This leaves furlough days, subcontracting and wages as the final three items still being negotiated.

Moving forward

The next collective bargaining meeting between WSU and Teamsters 957 will take place Nov. 10, where WSU will present the union with their latest proposals.

If WSU should accept the latest terms presented by the Teamsters, a vote will occur.

Representatives from both WSU and Teamsters 957 have been contacted, though both parties were unable to comment at this time.

Wright State University's (WSU) Teamsters 957 met with WSU officials on Oct. 19, in an attempt to come to a contractual agreement that would benefit both parties, but left the meeting with few things agreed upon.

Pay raises, furlough days and contractual protections for Teamsters custodial and floor care staff are the most important issues being negotiated.

What is being proposed?

WSU is proposing no pay raises throughout the life of a current contract which extends to Aug. 31, 2022. This rebuttal comes in the wake of last month's negotiation meeting, where Teamsters asked for a 1.5% pay increase in 2021 and a 2% pay increase in 2022.

WSU wants to add 10 furlough days with no more than 5 days used during a pay period. This is an article the university has maintained since the beginning of contract negotiations, and has not budged on.

Lastly, WSU is seeking to remove protections in current contract language that would prevent them from contracting out jobs in custodial and floor care staff.

With protections removed, WSU would have the right to contract out these jobs.

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“Right now we are fighting to keep our largest group of members, custodial and floor care staff, working,” said Tom Bellew, Chief Steward of Teamsters 957. “This entire time they have been considered essential, when in reality they are expendable.” Bellew said.

University remains hopeful

“The Wright State bargaining team is hopeful and optimistic about reaching an agreement with its Teamsters employees,” said Seth Bauguess, Director of Communications at WSU.

“The university values the work that these employees perform. They provide a valuable service to the university, and most importantly, our students. As the university continues to navigate these challenging times, it is prepared to continue operations as it drives toward fiscal sustainability so Wright State can be the public, four-year university the Dayton region and Ohio needs it to be.” Bauguess said.

The proposals offered to the Teamsters on Monday are not final, and another round of negotiations are set for Tuesday, Oct. 27.



Voter Suppression Continues to Plague Elections

Jamie Naylor

October 28, 2020

Voter suppression continues to plague elections, censoring the voices of students, minorities and the impoverished.

There are 8.73 million registered voters in the state of Ohio. Greene and Montgomery county combined have 491,079 registered voters for the 2020 election. Of those ballots, over 101,000 have been returned.

Students are a large proportion of Greene and Montgomery counties due to the high concentration of universities and colleges such as Wright State University (WSU). Despite these record-breaking numbers, many students and young voters feel they cannot exercise their right to vote.

Voter ID laws

Ohio is one of the 34 states that require a form of identification and proof of address in order to cast an in-person ballot.

Maxine Tyler, a senior political science major at WSU and president of Wright State Votes organization, points out that students cannot use their university ID's to vote. She also pointed out the strenuous process students living on campus have to go through to get proof of address documents.

Voter ID laws negatively affect minorities and those in poverty. Kirsten Spires, a senior at WSU and vice president of Rainbow Alliance, points out that voter ID laws endanger the transgender community due to gender marker laws.

Transportation voter suppression

Another issue pointed is transportation to the polls. Due to a shortage of poll workers, many polling locations have closed, causing many to travel greater distances to vote.

Travel is problematic for students without driving capabilities or those with disabilities. Wright State Votes has been advocating for an accessible polling location on campus, Tyler mentions push back from campus administration preventing such an initiative.

Mail-in voting

A popular alternative is mail-in voting. The global pandemic has increased the necessity of mail-in ballots. However, this form of voting is proving problematic for those who are currently homeless or impoverished.

Montgomery County's poverty rate was last reported at 17.4%, for Greene county the number drops to 11.3%. Mail-in ballots in Montgomery county cost 70 cents for a stamp, added to the fact voters must also have a permanent address or a PO box.

Gloria Pappaterra, a WSU political science alumni and poll worker recruiter for the nonprofit Power of the Polls says that "when you're suppressing the majority vote, [you are] suppressing the impoverished vote."

The major concern for Ohioans and mail-in voting is delays and mess-ups in the mail system. Ohio is facing printing shortages, misprinted ballots and postal service cutbacks. Ohio has one of the safest mail-in voting systems in the country. Dual step identity confirmation and ballot tracking is in place for Ohio voters

Despite the downsides, Pappaterra, Tyler and Spires all agree that mail-in voting is the easiest, safest and least oppressed way of voting.

Voter suppression disempowers minorities and young voters leading many to simply not participate in their local, state, and national elections. Many in these communities believe that due to suppression, their vote does not matter.

Pappaterra brings some hope to these individuals by saying "if you think your vote doesn't matter...they wouldn't be trying so hard to stop you from doing it".

Ohio offers mail-in voting, in-person voting, and early voting. Early voting started on Oct. 6 and goes until Nov. 2. Mail-in ballots need to be postmarked by Nov. 2.

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SGA: New Committee and Cabinet Confirmations

Maxwell Patton

October 28, 2020

The Student Government Association (SGA) confirmed nine nominees to new positions of leadership and asked for nominees for a new committee during their Oct. 27 meeting.

New committee

A new committee has been created to help search for the next Vice President for Inclusive Excellence (VPIE) at Wright State University. The committee consists of university administration, faculty and other members of the campus community.

SGA has been asked to nominate someone to serve as a student representative on the committee.

Students interested in joining this committee, which will start at the end of this week, are encouraged to email SGA President Adrian Williams after the meeting.

Cabinet confirmations

Nine nominated students were accepted into SGA to occupy the cabinet. Each student was given two minutes to introduce themselves and explain why they were qualified to fill their respective position. Senators were also given the chance to ask the nominees short questions regarding their position and application.

After these introductions, Williams, Vice President Joe York, SGA faculty advisor Courtney Mullins and the student senators gathered for an executive session and voted on whether to appoint the candidates.

Each of the confirmations was unanimous.

Chief of Staff Eli Smith, Director of Internal Affairs Jisa Patel, Director of External Affairs Ty Callahan, Director of Diversity & Inclusion Chinenye Amagwu, Director of Accessibility, Health & Safety Chiemaka Okafor, Director of Academic Affairs Lacey Loges, Director of Student Affairs Tiphani Moss, Director of the Student Government Internship Program Fatima Boumahchad and Director of Outreach & Collaboration Brendan Draper were all appointed.

Three nominees have had previous experience working with SGA. Smith was the SGA Chief Policy Officer and a Commuter Senator before taking over as Chief of Staff. Callahan was the

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assistant director of External Affairs and Boumahchad worked as the director of the Freshman Internship Program.

“Thank you all for applying...,” said Williams. “I’m excited to get to know you more and continue to work with you all going forward.

The confirmation of nominee Jeff Shehee is postponed until the Nov. 3 meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Four positions in SGA have yet to be filled, including the director of External Affairs, which has remained vacant due to scheduling conflicts with interviewing candidates. Three other roles, the chief policy officer and the senators for University College and the College of Business, are vacant as well.

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Volleyball Player Ellee Ruskaup to Represent WSU in OneHL Working Group

William Baptist

October 28, 2020

Ellee Ruskaup will be representing Wright State University (WSU) in the OneHL Working Group. This group will focus on bringing meaningful change to social and racial issues that we face in society today.

The OneHL Working Group is a subset of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), which has a broad range of responsibilities. The working group focuses on specific issues and how the student-athletes can tackle them.

“This group is so important to me because in all honesty, I have recognized my privilege. Privilege is a word that many see conflict around, but it is very important to recognize that differences exist,” said Ruskaup.

How the group got started

“Over the summer we started this platform, we thought it would be really important for student-athletes to get together and talk about the social issues that are going on,” said Horizon League Director of Communications and Digital Media Strategy Dan Gliot.

The group consists of 16 student-athletes and all 12 member institutions are represented. Ruskaup is a junior on the volleyball team at WSU and a marketing major from Fort Wayne, Ind. She is extremely passionate about these issues and hopes to bring change to the university and society as a whole.

Ruskaup was recommended by her teammate and SAAC member, Lainey Stephenson, to be a part of this working group and she didn’t hesitate to join.

Although these schools and student-athletes compete against each other, the Horizon League thought it was important for them to make an impactful change on their campuses.

Their first initiative

The first thing that the group focused on was getting 100% of student-athletes registered to vote.

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“Our initiative to get 100% of athletes registered to vote began as a response to the other D1 conferences announcing that their entire student-athlete body was registered to vote,” said Ruskaup.

Ultimately, WSU and other Horizon League schools were unable to get every student-athlete registered to vote, but they were able to stress the importance of using their voice and platform to educate themselves and people around them.

Long-term goals

“I hope that this group will allow students, athletes, professors and administration to have real and open conversations about race and ways we can build a society where truly everyone is treated equally,” said Ruskaup.

The group is student-athlete driven and they will meet twice a month throughout the 2020-2021 academic year to discuss ways in which they can make a difference on their campuses.

“Our OneHL Working Group has been making tremendous headway, and we are proud of their diligence and collaboration,” said Horizon League Commissioner Jon LeCrone.



Breaking: Rob Durkle Retires, McCamis To Take His Place
Maxwell Patton
October 28, 2020

Director of Admissions Jen McCamis has been named the interim chief recruitment and admissions officer at Wright State University (WSU) due to the retirement of her predecessor Rob Durkle.

Why Durkle is retiring

Durkle will be leaving his position effective Oct. 31, 2020, according to a message from WSU President Sue Edwards.

"Those of you who work directly with Rob know that he has recently been confronted with some significant personal health issues that continue to require his full attention without the distraction of work-related matters," Edwards said.

During his time as chief recruitment and admissions officer at WSU, Durkle has assisted the university in recruiting new students from around Raider Country and organized enrollment management while utilizing a team approach to the process.

The role of McCamis

McCamis will be reporting directly to President Edwards. She will be in charge of College Credit Plus, Articulation and Transfer, and the University Center for International Education in addition to Admissions. Two offices that Durkle oversaw, Financial Aid and Marketing, will now be reporting to Finance and Operations.

As a result of this situation, the university will also be moving Raider Connect to the Division of Student Success. The division is led by Associate Vice Provost for Student Success Tim Littell.

"Integrating RaiderConnect into the established Student Success model and approach will provide value-added benefits to students and their families," Edwards said.



Dayton's Not Dead: Warehouse 4
Maxwell Patton
October 29, 2020

Vandalia's Warehouse 4 has been giving guests a relaxing space to drink coffee and chat with friends since it opened in 2013.

The shop recently ranked third on Yelp's list of the 100 best coffee shops in Ohio, which is due to a commitment to customer service and quality coffee.

History of the shop

Warehouse 4, which is located at 335 Dixie Drive in Vandalia, was started by Chris Merritt along with Samantha Chamberlain and her father Todd in July 2013. At the time, the elder Chamberlain owned the building.

Before it housed a coffee shop, the building had been a candy store, warehouse and other businesses. According to manager Travis Tarter, Warehouse 4 received its name because Todd Chamberlain loved the feel of warehouses.

"He really liked just the vibe of a warehouse, which has to do with some of the design here," said Tarter. "A lot of the metalwork you see, the ceiling, the bar, it has that metal warehouse feel, and he had four daughters, so he called it Warehouse 4."

About a year after it opened, Vandalia resident Lundy Neely bought the Warehouse 4 business.

Soon after, Tarter and co-manager Adam Lowe began working there and helped expand the business and its menu, which at the time only included coffee items.

"We focused on our kitchen, we focused on the bakery and we focused on just being part of the city and we continued to grow," said Tarter.

Tarter believes that there are two key factors to Warehouse 4's success. One of those factors is how they treat their patrons.

"We push very hard, and we want to make sure our customer service is solid," said Tarter. "We want to put out a quality product."

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To achieve this standard, the shop uses ingredients such as Rahn's Artisan Breads and meats and cheese from Boar's Head and utilizes high-quality coffee roasters to brew their coffee.

Another factor, Tarter believes, is the lack of similar coffee shops in the Vandalia area.

"There aren't many places like us, this third-wave modern coffee shop cafe, in the area, so I think that also has a lot to do with our success," said Tarter.

The coronavirus impact

When the coronavirus hit Ohio in March, the business suspended dine-in service, though customers could still place a carry-out order or use the drive-thru. Service was later restricted to drive-thru only on March 23. Tarter is grateful that the business has this feature, which was installed shortly after the Neelys bought Warehouse 4.

"The drive-thru really saved us through COVID," said Tarter.

The shop opened back up for dine-in on June 15, and customers flocked to the business.

"As soon as we reopened inside, we were pretty busy," said Tarter. "We tried to set our store up. We decreased our seating here trying to promote social distancing and promote the use of masks when people aren't sitting at their tables. We've tried to still take that seriously and maintain our sanitizing standards, not even maintaining but doing even better than we did in the past, but at the same time, a lot of those customers were just so ready to come back inside and have a place where they can come and sit down."

Employee perspectives

Wright State University (WSU) graduate Alexandra Torres has worked as a barista at Warehouse 4 for almost a year, working through the pandemic.

"We took precautions as quickly as possible and we were very worried about having a severe decline in our customer base, but I have to say that we've been pretty lucky on that front," said Torres.

Torres and fellow barista Andrew Bautista, who is also a WSU graduate, both enjoy the environment of Warehouse 4.

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Bautista, a recent hire at the shop, worked at the City Coffeehouse in Huber Heights before it closed down due to the pandemic. Bautista regards his experience so far at Warehouse 4 with a positive attitude.

“It’s a lot different than any other coffee shop that I’ve worked at,” Bautista said. “Here, they actually take time to make sure that their coffee tastes good and they really like bringing out the flavors of the coffee. For example, if a coffee comes from Ethiopia, they make sure that they can taste it. Everyone here cares about coffee, and it’s a great culture.”

Warehouse 4 will soon be opening a second location in Kettering at 3131 Wilmington Pike.

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Laker Life: The Hoedag's legacy
Roxanne Roessner
October 29, 2020

For over 100 years, Auglaize and Mercer County residents have reported seeing a beast within the waters of Grand Lake St. Marys. While the validity of the sightings is still in question, one thing that remains is that Hoedag's legacy will live on.

The lake monster

According to the Lake Improvement website, the first recorded sighting of Hoedag occurred in 1912.

The website states that Hoedag is, "3/4 the size of an elephant, possesses a serpentine body with a back hump, chicken-like feet, a green eye on the forehead and a red eye on the long tail, and is covered with hair and feathers".

The creature's description has changed throughout the years into what Wright State University (WSU) Lake Campus's mascot is today. According to students, its favorite food is pumpkin pie, but it will settle for missing dogs and frightened humans.

While its origins are in question, Robb Kinnison sheds light on what happened.

"When digging Grand Lake, the workers unearthed a horrific desiccated fossil that returned to life upon being submerged in the water with which they filled the newly dug crater. The hoedag terrified and completely wiped out the population of the first two settlements in this area. It was actually captured with the help of several native peoples and butchered into thin sausages that the white people poisoned and fed to the natives that helped them. Unbeknownst to most people, these sausages were named after the creature, 'Hoedag' and this is the origin of the term 'hotdog'," said Kinnison.

Local sighting

Local resident and lake dweller Paul Werling shared his take on Hoedag.

"Our neighbor's dog disappeared a few years ago one cold winter night. They let him out to go to the bathroom and he was gone... Had to have been the Hoedag" said Werling.

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According to Werling, most Hoedag stories are started with fishing, beer and a fun night. Werling first heard of the beast at Grand Lake at his neighbor's house and went so far as to name his party garage, "The Hoedag Hut" and had shirts made in Hoedag's honor.

Many people in Auglaize and Mercer Counties have their own stories and sightings of Hoedag, most stemming from their childhood days spent at the lake.

"When I would drive from work in Lima at 3 a.m. I would drive past Huffy Farm and see a weird creature and it freaked me out. It was only a picnic table. Not a Hoedag," said local resident Jessica Bergman.

When asked about the Hoedag in the Friends of Grand Lake Facebook group, most comments were of locals reminiscing on seeing the beast in their channels growing up and later on spotting it around the lake bars late into the night.

Controversy in the Hoedag community

According to many Wisconsin Wikipedia users, the Hoedag is none other than the Hodag, a creature that is a local legend in their state. When researching Hoedag, it seemed that several individuals were disturbed by the twisted version of their creature.

"Besides the fact that Hodags are a Wisconsin cryptozoological specimen, this one is found two states over... when there's no evidence that Hodags have that sort of range. And even the author admits (in very bad English) (twice) that the critter in question is so vastly different as to probably not be a Hodag at all, but a "Hoedag." No sources, no info on Google other than Wikipedia... I'm just not seeing it," said Wikipedia user Korossyl.

The story continues

Though the Hoedag is accepted as a local legend that patrols the waters of Grand Lake St. Marys, the local community has involved it in projects to keep the lake safe and clean from algae.

The Lake Improvement Association launched the "Save The Hoedag" Video Contest in 2011. The video project focused on how the Hoedag's natural habitat was being harmed and what people in the communities could do to help it. This project aimed to involve local youth in helping Grand Lake.

Former Coldwater resident Sara Reigle was finishing high school around this time.

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“There was a campaign and contest to make a video about how to save Grand Lake from the algae. It was called ‘save the Hoedag.’ And I was like, ‘Since when do we have a lake monster?’ Then I was at a graduation party on the lake and we saw a fish jump out of the water and we were all like, ‘Oh my god, it was the Hoedag,’” said Reigle.

While most stories of Hoedag seem like fabrications of local lore, those who have seen the beast know to keep their distance from Grand Lake at night and to keep their dogs close to home.

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Will WSU Mandate Flu Shots?

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

October 29, 2020

As colleges announce that flu shots will be required for students to live on campus in the spring semester, Wright State University (WSU) students wait to hear if they too share a similar fate.

Colleges requiring flu shots

As of Oct. 9, the University of Dayton (UD) began to require students to obtain a flu shot to be on campus.

“To help curb the spread of the flu on campus during the pandemic, the university is requiring students be vaccinated for the flu,” said UD Student Health Medical Director Mary Buchwalder. “The deadline is Nov. 1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends you receive your flu shot by the end of October.”

Students who do not receive their flu shot or fill out an exemption form (for medical or religious reasons) will be required to attend classes virtually next semester.

Wayne State University and the University of North Carolina will also be implementing similar protocols within the coming weeks. Students K-12 as well as those attending college in the state of Massachusetts are also now required to obtain a flu shot with the exception of medical and religious exemptions.

The wright plan

“Wright State has no plans at this time to make flu shots mandatory for Wright State students,” said Director of Communications Seth Bauguess.

Student Health Services at WSU is offering appointments for students to get their flu shot Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as well as 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Though these flu shot appointments are offered, obtaining a flu shot is not required.

“Students are encouraged to get a flu shot this fall,” said a representative of Student Health Services in a message to WSU students. “Given the continued spread of COVID-19, it is important that everyone do everything they can to stay healthy. The best way to protect yourself from the flu is by getting an annual flu shot.”



To make a flu shot appointment, students can call 937.245.7200 or use the patient portal on the Student Health Services website if they are an existing patient.



Breaking: WSU Announces COVID Screening For Asymptomatic Individuals

Roxanne Roessner

October 29, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) released a statement on Oct. 29 announcing that testing will be expanded to asymptomatic students and employees throughout the remainder of the semester and into the spring.

Expanded screening

According to Interim Provost Douglas Leaman, WSU will join the other institutions in the state of Ohio that have on-campus student housing. The new pilot program aims to test 100 individuals per week who are asymptomatic at WSU.

"Wright State University is expanding its screening program to include additional asymptomatic individuals. This pilot testing program is the latest health and safety initiative Wright State is utilizing to protect the safety and well-being of our students and employees by fighting against COVID-19 spread," said Leaman.

These groups include those involved with athletics, resident assistants and professional staff from Housing and those in clinical settings.

"The screening program will use the rapid Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 antigen screening tests and will include students and employees from areas of campus who have high incidence of in-person contact with others and are therefore at higher-risk of exposure to COVID-19," said Leaman.

Those screened will be tested weekly for three weeks and will be notified via email if they are selected for testing.

"Testing will be administered at the Lot 20 bus shelter adjacent to the Wright State Physicians Health Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Wright State Physicians staff will administer the rapid antigen tests. It will take about 15 minutes for individuals to receive their test results. Testing of other students or patients with a Wright State Physicians' order will continue to be offered at the drive-through site from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday," said Leaman.

Though WSU is not accepting volunteers at this time for the screening, it will communicate opportunities in the future during the Spring Semester.



WSU member responsibilities

Members of the WSU community are asked to self-report through the COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form located on the Coronavirus Response website and to keep track of the COVID-19 Dashboard that shows all active coronavirus cases. Members are also asked to continue practicing social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

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From President to Researcher, Where Schrader is Today

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

October 30, 2020

Cheryl Schrader served as president of Wright State University (WSU) from July 1, 2017 until Jan 1, 2020. Nearly a year has passed since President Sue Edwards took over this role, and many are wondering how post-presidency life is suiting Schrader.

Schrader's presidency

When Schrader first came to WSU, the university was on the verge of going into a fiscal watch. By the time she left office, the financial status of the university had done a complete turnaround.

"There is a measure that the state uses to evaluate the health of the university. It's a five-point scale and anything low at 1.75 is sort of a red light," said Schrader. "I came in when the university hit a 0.8, which I believe was lowest that a university had hit in the state. And as of last fall, we were above a 3.0."

In addition to helping turn around WSU's financial struggles, Schrader was also president of the university during the infamous faculty strike in 2019.

"It [ending the strike] was a challenge," Schrader said, "and actually quite successful in the end, being able to help the Board of Trustees understand the faculty perspective."

Schrader felt as though she had accomplished all that she had set out to do in her presidency and announced her retirement in Oct. 2019, with the goal of returning to the classroom utilizing her electrical engineering background.

Present-day

Nearly a year later, Schrader has integrated back into the classroom setting and is additionally involved in research.

"Well, I'm always reading, but now I'm going back to more research articles. This morning I was reading about using feedback control to understand and model processes and solutions to address COVID-19," said Schrader. "So, it was kind of a really refreshing viewpoint, being able to use some of that technical expertise to kind of help shape how we handle the virus."

Schrader also discussed her interest in STEM education research and how large of an impact it can make on a larger scale. In particular, she highlighted her work with the American Society for

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Engineering Education (ASEE), an organization working to bring more females into the STEM field as faculty.

“It’s [ASEE] really focused on bringing more women faculty into engineering, and so we’re dealing with around 530 universities with accredited engineering programs and working with their Dean’s,” said Schrader. “You’ll be happy to know that our dean at Wright State signed on a pledge to be a part of that.”

Schrader has also been cherishing her family since stepping down as president, taking advantage of having family aside from her husband living near her for the first time in several years.

“We [Schrader and her husband] have had the opportunity to enjoy my teenage daughter, and we have an adult son who moved to Dayton this year with his wife and our first grandchild,” said Schrader. “My husband and I have never lived by family, so this is just so exciting for us”.

When asked what message she has for WSU students, Schrader expressed how she admires their resilience and how she is proud to work with the students of WSU.

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Virtual Study Abroad: Is it Worth It?

Alexis Wisler

October 30, 2020

With the coronavirus pandemic restricting travel abroad, the University Center for International Education (UCIE) has begun virtual study abroad programs at Wright State University (WSU).

The experience

In partnership with international non-profit organizations, the UCIE is giving WSU students the opportunity to learn from international professors from the comfort of their own home.

Students can take part in synchronous classes or internships from over 50 countries in a variety of fields and disciplines. For a complete list of countries and areas of study, visit the UCIE website

<https://studyabroad.wright.edu>

“They’re synchronous classes and you work hand-in-hand with the professor from that part of the world in a class, like we do now at Wright State. However, the class is taking place, for example, in France,” said Education Abroad Coordinator Megan Trickler.

The benefits

The virtual study abroad programs, despite seeming contradictory, have several benefits. The first being that students can save on the cost of international study compared to a normal study abroad program.

“You don’t have to pay for airfare or a passport, you don’t have to worry about any of that kind of thing. You can continue your job, continue living here in the U.S, but still have international experience to put on your resume,” said Trickler.

Just like with normal study abroad programs, if students choose to take a full semester of virtual study abroad classes, the price of tuition will be waived and they will only need to pay the program fee. Financial aid and scholarships are still available for virtual study abroad.

Another benefit is that students who want to add international experience to their resumes can still do so during the pandemic. According to Trickler, having international education experience or internship experience is a great addition to any resume.

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The virtual study abroad programs can also help students become comfortable with international education before traveling to and living in another country to study abroad.

“Another plus to the virtual programs is that if you’re a student that is here for another year or two and you’re kind of unsure, this really gives you the confidence that you need to understand another culture and know some of the language,” said Trickler.

The drawbacks

Despite these benefits, Trickler and students are aware that virtual study abroad does not give students the full experience of studying in another country.

“I personally wouldn’t participate in it. I think the whole purpose of studying abroad isn’t necessarily the education you’re getting but the experience,” said sophomore financial services major Melody Roop.

In addition to the lack of experience, some students are concerned about learning online from international professors when they feel that learning online from WSU professors can be challenging already.

“I mean we already have trouble and a hard time doing it [remote learning] here. I struggle a lot with online learning and so definitely learning from an international professor [remotely] would still be very hard I think,” said sophomore early childhood education major Jordan See.

Despite these worries, Trickler encourages students to utilize the virtual study abroad programs.

“I think it’s a great thing to consider right now. It’s wonderful for yourself personally as well as professionally and there’s really no risk to it because you don’t have to leave your home,” said Trickler.



Resurgence of COVID Cases in Ohio, Following Guidelines

Noah Kindig

October 30, 2020

With a resurgence of cases in Ohio and across the country, and new restrictions and lockdowns being placed in European countries such as Poland, there may be a second wave of restrictions coming for Dayton residents.

Other states across the country have seen a reversal in new confirmed cases, but Ohio is one of the most drastic.

Cases over the summer vs. now

Over the Summer, Governor Mike Dewine tried earnestly to slow the virus by shutting down the economy and issuing stay at home orders. For a while, it seemed to be working. The newly reported cases in Ohio over the summer were at a record low of 300 cases on June 14, according to data from the CDC and the World Health Organization.

However, the daily number of reported cases has shot up dramatically in recent weeks, with Oct. 21 reporting over 2,000 new cases in a single day, according to the same organizations.

This is not just an Ohio issue. Other States such as New Jersey and New York have reported massive spikes in case numbers, and may look at new lockdowns in the near future. European countries such as Spain and Italy have also been hit hard by a second wave of the virus, and are implementing new restrictions, such as banning travel to certain regions and a nighttime curfew.

Reasons for more new cases

CDC Doctor Robert Redfield says that small family gatherings, especially with Thanksgiving coming up, could be a factor in the rise of cases.

"But what we're seeing as the increasing threat right now, is actually acquisition of infection through small household gatherings," Redfield told U.S. governors in a meeting. "Particularly with Thanksgiving coming up, we think it's really important to stress the vigilance of these continued mitigation steps in the household setting."

However, other experts point to a lax in following guidelines as a factor.

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In a press briefing, Governor Dewine stated that “people are letting their guard down,” and that “the progress the state has made is in danger of being reversed.”

The governor stressed that following social guidelines is still as important as ever, commenting that “we’re in a crisis stage in Ohio, and this can go one way or the other.”

Dr. Stephen Blatt, medical director for Infectious Disease at TriHealth Hospitals in Cincinnati, agreed and noted that young people are increasingly the ones getting infected.

“I don’t think we reopened too soon, our numbers were very good,” Blatt said. “The problem is that people are not wearing masks. You go out and everywhere you look they’re not wearing masks.”

Blatt’s claims are accurate, especially when you look at coronavirus cases in Greene County. While young people won’t face many repercussions from the disease, they could spread it to older relatives that would need to be hospitalized.

However, in recent days in Dayton, there have been more people wearing masks and following social guidelines due to an increase in cases, and a Code Red declared in Greene County.

“For me, the pressure to wear masks seemed to be missing when the weather was warmer.” Katherine deGruchy, an adjunct instructor at the Wright State University (WSU) School of Music, commented. “But since it’s gotten colder, and there have been a lot more cases, there’s been more pressure from the University and the community to wear masks and socially distance.”

For deGruchy, WSU’s testing and safety regulations are the right thing to do in the situation.

“With Governor Dewine declaring Greene county as a code red, I think Dayton is starting to crack down again.” deGruchy said. “I don’t think more lockdowns are coming for us or anything, but I do think being careful with testing in the dorms, like what other colleges are doing, and socially distancing is the right thing to do.”

In the upcoming months, there could be an even more drastic rise in cases due to colder weather. The important thing for Wright State students and Dayton residents to do in these times is to remain vigilant and to continue to follow social distancing guidelines as much as possible, including wearing masks.

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Student-Athlete Spotlight: Tanner Holden
William Baptist
October 30, 2020

Tanner Holden is going into his sophomore season on the Wright State University (WSU) basketball team after being named to the Horizon League All-Freshman Team last year.

Holden averaged 12.1 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game after starting 30 regular-season games as a true freshman. He is looking to improve on what he did last year as his confidence and game continue to grow.

“Me and my dad spent a lot of time in the gym this offseason, just getting shots up and getting my shot consistent. Just getting bigger, stronger and faster, and I think it was a good time to get away and really focus on myself and get my mind right,” said Holden.

Last season

WSU had one of their best overall seasons last year in school history with a 25-7 regular-season record. Despite this, the team didn’t finish where they wanted to after falling short against UIC in the Horizon League Tournament.

“We didn’t play our best against UIC and they came out and they wanted it more than us and that’s what motivated me, because I don’t want anyone to want something more than me,” said Holden.

According to Holden, that loss has been a driving force in the work that Holden has put in this off season. He is confident in the work he has put in and he trusts the coaching staff to put him in the best situation possible.

“Last year we had our mindset on getting to the Horizon League tournament and winning that. That’s a huge learning thing for us, to use the momentum we had in the regular season and use that towards the tournament,” said Holden.

Upcoming season

This has been an unprecedented off season, but Holden is eager to get the season started and feels this is one of the best teams he has ever been a part of.

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“I think this is a really, really special group...just throughout practice everyone is competing and everyone is working hard and I think that’s going to be a huge boost for us,” said Holden.

The team had to work out and practice in groups because of the protocols in place, so it has been a somewhat strange off season in trying to build the chemistry within the team.

This did not deter Holden from focusing on basketball and trying to improve, but the uncertainty surrounding the season was tough when trying to prepare, according to Holden.

“You’re always thinking in your head that ‘I hope I get to show people what I’m made of and what this team can do’,” said Holden.

The WSU basketball team is still awaiting a decision from the Horizon League on their schedules for the season. The NCAA announced that the earliest the season can start is Nov. 25.